

Castlemaine Naturalist

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Ironbark dominated Whipstick forest
photo - Noel Young

Excursion to the Whipstick Forest 12/9/09

Geraldine Harris

Ten people attended this excursion held on the hottest September day ever and despite some large isolated puddles of water on the road indicating recent rainfalls, the whipstick bushland was very dry. Gold-dust Wattle (*Acacia acinacea*), Cypress Daisy-bush (*Olearia teretifolia*) and Rosy Baeckea (*Baeckea ramosissima*) provided the main patches of colour but at the end of the day we had a good list flowering plants.

Cyanicula cerulea

Acacia acinacea

Eucalyptus viridis

Olearia teretifolia

Calandrinia sp.

Caladenia carnea

Siloxerus multiflorus

Blue Caladenia

Gold-dust Wattle

Green Mallee

Cypress Daisy-bush

Pink Fingers

Small Wrinklewort

Additions at the Shadbolt Picnic area:

Cotula bipinnata

Hypoxis glabella var. *glabella*

Eurymyrt ramosissima subsp.

Daviesia ulicifolia

Rhytidosporum procumbens

Glossodia major

Hibbertia exutiacies

Pterostylis nana

Phebalium festivum

Xerochrysum viscosum

Oxalis perennans

Senecio tenuiflorus spp. Agg.

Ferny Cotula

Tiny Star

Rosy Baeckea

Gorse Bitter-pea

White Marianth

Wax-lip Orchid

Spiky Guinea-flower

Dwarf Greenhood

Dainty Phebalium

Sticky Everlasting

Grassland Wood-sorrel

Slender Fireweed

<i>Caladenia gracilis</i>	Musky Hood
<i>Drosera macrantha</i>	Climbing Sundew
<i>Acacia gunnii</i>	Ploughshare Wattle
<i>Drosera peltata ssp peltata</i>	Pale Sundew
<i>Grevillea alpina</i>	Downy Grevillea
<i>Ozothamnus obcordatus</i>	Grey Everlasting
<i>Acacia aspera</i>	Rough Wattle
<i>Wahlenbergia gracilentia</i>	Annual Bluebell
<i>Pteristylis cycnocephala</i>	Swan Orchids

- 8 plants

Making local contributions to scientific research as a volunteer

Birds in Backyards

Chris Timewell

As its name suggests, *Birds in Backyards* is aiming to learn more about bird occurrence and activity in modified 'human' environments, and how these may change both spatially and temporally. *Birds in Backyards* is actually a group of bird-related projects that encourages the on-line contributions of data from volunteers across Australia (<http://www.birdsinbackyards.net/>). It is jointly managed by Birds Australia and the Australian Museum. Once you've signed up online as a member, you can begin collecting data for one or more of their projects, none of which requires a high level of bird-watching experience or computer skills. By knowing or learning the birds occurring in your own backyard and having access to the internet, you can begin to make a contribution. And, unlike the Birds Australia Atlas Project, the on-line data submission process for all aspects of *Birds In Backyards* is very simple and quick to use.

The *Birds in Backyards* website is full of useful information relevant to the projects, which is presented in a clear and logical manner. Bird identification guides on the website are provided to assist the less experience bird observer. Through bulletin-boards, it facilitates interaction with other volunteers such as regular project updates, sharing unusual bird observations, displaying bird photography and asking and answering questions. My only qualm (a partially egotistical one) is that the website doesn't provide you with a summary of your own personal contributions to the projects.

The main *Birds in Backyards* project involves volunteers undertaking surveys of all birds seen actually using habitats occurring within their property boundaries. Birds that are only seen in flight or that are seen only in neighbouring properties are not included. This bird survey can be either done as a 20 minute count (conducted between 7am and 10am) or as a weekly or yearly list. Then, you submit your bird list and also details on the characteristics of your garden (e.g. location, proportion of native and exotic plants, number of large trees, provision of water or artificial food sources, distance to nearest bushland, presence of cats or dogs, etc.). The latter data only ever needs to be entered once, unless you move house or if your garden changes over time.

I have made a few contributions over the past months to this main project. I tend to undertake a 20 minute survey about once every 2-3 weeks within my garden,

but any higher or lower frequency of survey is accepted (up to a maximum of one survey per day). A similar volunteer-based project has been running in Canberra backyards for almost 30 years and has shown some fascinating and scientifically important changes over time, such as the arrival and increase in Common Mynas, increases in some lorikeets and other larger native birds, and the decline of many small bush birds.

(see <http://garden.canberrabirds.org.au/index.htm> for a summary of the results of the Canberra study).

There are a range of other projects that you can contribute to as a member of *Birds In Backyards*, not all of which are relevant to the Mt Alexander shire (e.g. Channel-billed Cuckoo surveys). Relevant ones include:

Plant-use surveys – Relative to the abundance of amateur and professional bird-watching activity that has been undertaken over recent years and decades, observations of plant-bird interactions have been rarely recorded or documented, even for relatively common species. This project involves documenting occasions when you have seen a particular bird species using a particular plant species (either indigenous or exotic, planted or remnant) and how this bird was using the plant (e.g. for shelter, nesting material, or different types of foraging).

Superb Fairy-wren surveys and Grey-crowned Babbler surveys – The broad-scale decline of the Grey-crowned Babbler across its southern range has been known for some years, and still continues despite some isolated examples of stabilizations or even reversals in the decline in some areas. (Sadly, it is my understanding that the last Grey-crowned Babblers from the Mt Alexander Shire may have disappeared within the last 5 or so years.) Somewhat surprisingly, there also is increasing anecdotal evidence indicating that Superb Fairy-wrens may also be declining, with a number of gardens and other previously known locations no longer being visited, or being visited less frequently. These two projects aim to document the size, composition and other details for groups of these two charismatic bird species, whether they are seen in your property or local area.

Australian White Ibis Surveys – Although not (yet) a significant problem in Melbourne, Australian White Ibis have become abundant within a number of other larger cities and towns in Australia (such as Sydney) and are increasing being viewed as a pest in these areas. As part of a broader study looking at the ecology of ibis using urban areas, a number of ibis have been captured and then released after colour bands have been attached to their legs. For this project, people are encouraged to submit incidental observations of these colour-banded birds wherever they are seen, and to provide as many details as possible on the combination of colour bands. It is feasible that one or more banded birds may journey through our area, or you may see them during travels elsewhere.

Backyard Biffo project – Noisy Miners, Red Wattlebirds and New Holland Honeyeaters are often considered to be amongst the bullies of the bird world in parks and gardens of south-eastern Australia. However, there have been relatively few studies on aggressive interactions between any Australian birds. This has been identified as an important knowledge gap, particularly in

relation to the decline of many smaller bushland birds from fragmented landscapes. For this project, you can record range of details about aggressive interactions between any two different bird species that you have observed, either in your backyard or elsewhere.

While there are some similarities to the Birds Australia Atlas project, the roles and objectives of Birds in Backyards is different. The Atlas project is attempting to capture primarily information on local bird occurrence and abundance across a whole continent, whereas the Birds in Backyards project is aiming to find out more about what the birds are doing, how they are using different habitats and how they're interacting with each other and with humans. Birds in Backyards also encourages people to study the birds occurring close to, or at, their home, and (indirectly) discourages the view that useful observations can only be made in National Parks or other important remnant areas.

Birds in Backyards will appeal most to those with an interest in birds and/or an interest in what's happening just out their lounge room window. It's very easy to join and contribute. And they are very interesting scientific studies.

Bird count notice - 1st weekend in December

The annual bird count teams reform on this weekend – if interested in participating, please contact Chris Morris

Recent wildflower sightings by Richard Piesse

16 August: **Vaughan Springs to Castlemaine** (GDT):

Hakea decurrens, *Philotheca verrucosa*, *Pterostylis melagramma*, *Boronia anemonifolia*, *Correa reflexa*, *Daviesia ulicifolia*, *Grevillea alpina*, *Acacia acinacea*, *aspera*, *dealbata*, *genistifolia*, *melanoxyton*, *pycnantha*.

17 August: along **Merri Creek trail** in suburban Melbourne – lots of Acacias (Council and volunteer plantings):

A. acinacea, *aspera*, *dealbata*, *implexa*, *mearnsii*, *melanoxyton*, *paradoxa*, *pycnantha*.

9 September: **Ararat township and Ararat Regional Park**

Acacia acinacea, *mearnsii*, *paradoxa*, *pycnantha*, *Correa reflexa*, *Drosera peltata* spp, *D whittakeri*, *Epacris impressa*, *Grevillea alpina*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Hibbertia fasciculata*, *Hovea hederacea*, *Leptospermum myrsinoides*, *Leucopogon ericoides*, *Tetratheca ciliata*, *Chrysocephalum vitellinum*, *Helichrysum scorpioides*, *Bulbina bulbosa*, *Caladenia carnea*, *C cucullata*, *Diuris chryseopsis**, *Pterostylis melagramma*, *P nutans*, *P. robusta*, *Wurmbea dioica*

*there were tens of thousands of these Golden Moth Orchids

13 September **Castlemaine to Calder Hwy** (GDT):

Acacia acinacea, *aspera*, *dealbata*, *genistifolia*, *gunnii*, *paradoxa*, *pycnantha*; *Drosera peltata* spp, *D whittakeri*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Hovea hederacea*, *Luzula meridionalis*, *Philotheca verrucosa*, *Rhytidosporum procumbens*, *Tetratheca ciliata*, *Caladenia carnea*, *C cucullata*, *Diuris pardina*, *Glossodia major*, *Pterostylis nana*, *P nutans*

First Wildflower Walk for Spring 2009

Hans van Gemert

Richard Piesse was the Leader for our first wildflower walk this season and he chose the Old Firetower Track in the Fryers Ranges. This is close to the boundary between the Fryers Range State Forest and the Fryers Ridge Nature Conservation Reserve. We had a good attendance with about 14 people participating. Plants in flower included the following:

<i>Acacia gunnii</i>	Ploughshare Wattle
<i>A. aspera</i>	Rough Wattle
<i>A. aculiatissima</i>	Thin-leaf Wattle
<i>A. pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle
<i>A. oxycedrus</i>	Spike Wattle
<i>Grevillea alpina</i>	Cat's Claws or Mountain Grevillea
<i>Tetradlea ciliata</i>	Pink Bells
<i>Drosera peltata</i>	Tall Sundew
<i>Wurmbea dioica</i>	Early Nancy
<i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>	Purple Coral-pea
<i>Leucopogon virgatus</i>	Common Beard-heath
<i>Leucopogon ericoides</i>	Pink Beard-heath
<i>Hovea linariis</i>	Common Hovea
<i>Phyllothea verrucosa</i>	Fairy Waxflower
<i>Craspedia spp</i>	Billy Buttons
<i>Ozothamnus obcordatus</i>	Grey Everlasting
<i>Hibbertia spp</i>	Guinea Flower
<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Silky Tea-tree
<i>Epacris impressa</i>	Common Heath (white, pink and red forms)

It was felt by most of us that it was too early in the season for the best show of wildflowers. The number of species found was about half of what would be expected from our experience in previous years.



Spike Wattle - *Acacia oxycedrus*

photo – Noel Young

Wildflower walk#2 Smiths Reef, Wed. 23/9

Rita Mills

Despite cold showery conditions there was quite a gathering at the corner of Carpenters and Sinclairs Lanes for the second Wednesday Wildflower Walk. Probably the most abundant flower for the afternoon was the *Glossodia major*, the Wax-lip orchid. There were hundreds of them.

Other plants in flower were: Common Beardheath *Leucopogon virgatus*, Gorse Bitter-pea *Daviesia ulicifolia*, Downy Grevillea or Catsclaws *Grevillea alpina*, Pink Bells *Tetratheca ciliata*, Tall Sundew or Erinallum *Drosera peltata* ssp *peltata*, Pink Fingers, *Caladenia* sp. (*carnea*?), Bitter Cryptandra *Cryptandra amara*, Gold-dust Wattle *Acacia acinacia*, Yam Daisy *Microseris* sp., Fairy Waxflower *Philotheca verrucosa*, Tangled Guineaflower *Hibbertia exutiacies*, Musky Caladenia *C. gracilis*, Billy Buttons *Craspedia variabilis*, Tall Riceflower *Pimelea linifolia*, Early Nancy *Wurmbea dioica*, Sticky Everlasting *Xerochrysum viscosum*, Milkmaids *Burchardia umbellata*, Chocolate Lily *Arthropodium strictum*, and Dwarf Greenhood *Pterostylis nana*. Another Greenhood, probably *P. mutica*, the Midget Greenhood was found by a couple of people, but we couldn't find it again as it really lives up to its name. At first it was thought to be *P. cycnocephala*, the Swan Greenhood, but the wide rounded shape to the lateral sepals suggests *P. mutica*.

We also found a Tall Greenhood which had finished flowering, and Small Dodder-laurel with its small red fruit.

And it didn't rain while we were there!



Fairy Wax-flower, Musky Caladenias, and Early Nancy

- photos Noel Young

Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater Surveys in the Mt Alexander Shire - 1 & 2 August 2009

Chris Timewell and Lisa Minchin

The weekend of the 1-2 August 2009 was the second of the two annual survey weekends for the Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*) and the Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera phrygia*) across south-eastern mainland Australia. In a compact team of two, we conducted numerous short surveys within the Mt Alexander Shire area. Relatively few areas were found to have profusely flowering eucalypts. Where flowering trees were found, nectar-feeding birds were present in generally low levels of diversity, but relatively high abundance.

On the morning of the 1 August 2009, we undertook bird surveys at the following locations:

1. A property neighbouring our house on the lower end of Hunter St, Castlemaine, has a large planted ironbark that was heavily flowering. Moderate numbers of Red Wattlebirds and New Holland Honeyeaters were seen squabbling over the nectar resources, with small numbers of Silvereyes sneaking in for a quick feed before being chased away.
2. There were a small number of Yellow Gums in flower along the gully that runs through the A. C. Sinclair Reserve, on the corner of Wheeler and Etty Sts, Castlemaine. Aggressive Red Wattlebirds and New Holland Honeyeaters were relatively common around the flowering. A group of approximately 12 Brown-headed Honeyeaters landing briefly in a flowering tree before being immediately chased off by a Red Wattlebird.
3. Very little flowering was seen across parts of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park to the east of Farran St. Many woodland birds were seen in planted and remnant vegetation along the waterway (rosellas, White-browed Scrub-wrens, Superb Fairy-wrens, thornbills, Grey Shrike-thrush), but a couple of New Holland Honeyeaters were the only nectar-feeders observed.
4. While enjoying a mid-morning coffee break at the Wesley Hill market, we kept a close eye (and binoculars) on a couple of large planted flowering Red Ironbarks along Van Heurck St. Again, lots of aggressive Red Wattlebirds and New Holland Honeyeaters were dominating this little patch.
5. Remembering Simon Kennedy's advice from his recent talk to the CFNC (that Swift Parrots have a definite midday and afternoon lull in activity), it was probably getting a bit late in the morning to be checking the final site for the day along Murphy St. This street, not too far from the Wesley Hill market, had about 10-12 large planted Red Ironbarks, which were profusely flowering. A quick check over a couple of these trees suggested that there was enough avian activity to warrant another look at an earlier time the following morning.

On the morning of the 2 August 2009, we continued our bird surveys:

6. We journeyed back to Murphy Street and found huge numbers of Red Wattlebirds and good numbers of New Holland Honeyeaters. Other nectar-feeders seen included a flock of Musk Lorikeets flying overhead, small groups of Brown-headed Honeyeaters and a single Yellow-tufted Honeyeater. No Swifties, but we could not see any reason why they wouldn't use this area for foraging on occasions.
7. We headed out west, and had a wander about the Muckleford Bushland Reserve, along Muckleford School Rd. Very little flowering was seen at all in the reserve, and correspondingly, the bird activity was discouragingly low. A lone Red Wattlebird was making a racket, and a couple of Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo flew through just above canopy level. Not much else of note.
8. We drove southwards along Muckleford-Walmer Rd, from the intersection with Muckleford School Rd, on the lookout for flowering trees. We stopped briefly to check a concentration of bird life in a grassy farm paddock. A Jacky Winter and a small group of Flame Robins were jumping around the paddocks and perching on fence-lines, while Red-rumped Parrots, Common Starlings, Common Mynas and Galahs were nonchalantly foraging on the ground. Continuing southwards, we did find a small patch of flowering Yellow Gums on the roadside, where there were small numbers of Red Wattlebirds, White-plumed Honeyeaters and New Holland Honeyeaters about, with a brief appearance by a group of 10 Brown-headed Honeyeaters moving through.
9. A large flowering Yellow Gum near the corner of Pyrenees Hwy and Mia Mia Rd on the edge of Newstead supported a lone Red Wattlebird, but little else. A single Little Eagle was also observed circling over this location as well.
10. We had a quick look along Sandon-Captains Gully Rd, primarily in the hope of seeing the Cape Barren Goose that had been reported on the internet in the previous week as being present at this location. No luck with the goose, but we did come across a couple of locations with flowering Yellow Gums where we looked closely for nectar-feeders. Red Wattlebirds and New Holland Honeyeaters were prevalent again. At one of the locations, we also saw a great diversity of woodland birds (Little Lorikeet, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Fuscous Honeyeater, White-naped Honeyeater), plus a number of waterbirds in nearby farm dams (Black Swan, Australian Wood Duck, Grey Teal, Australasian Grebe, White-faced Heron). This turned out to be the most promising location, and one that we'll check again next year. A number of pairs of Australian Shelducks were also seen in the surrounding paddocks.
11. Finally, we visited a friend's house along Pound Lane out the back of Newstead (in Strangways). There was a tiny bit of Grey Box flowering amongst the woodland across their property, but not enough to attract many nectar-feeders (other than a couple of Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters). A good range of other woodland birds were seen including Peaceful Doves, Brown Treecreepers, a fearless Eastern Yellow Robin, a cautious White-browed Babbler, a male Golden Whistler and a noisy Grey Shrike Thrush.

Despite the lack of Swift Parrots or Regent Honeyeaters, a fun weekend was had and many species were added to our checklist of local species seen. Our datasheets and observations from the weekend have been submitted to Birds Australia.

A CELEBRATION OF EUCALYPTS

Geraldine Harris

Forty- nine and a half years ago young Ern Perkins joined Field Naturalists of Victoria and one speaker he vividly remembers was Ernest Hanks who spoke about "Eucalypts" and ignited a spark of interest in Ern that has lasted almost fifty years. At our September meeting we were treated with a richly illustrated presentation of some of the accumulated knowledge that has resulted from that early encounter.

Having struggled for years to learn the names of our native trees I decided to use Ern's talk and one of the books he recommended as a starting point to my own understanding and, I hope, celebration of Eucalypts.....

Dean Nichole in his book "Eucalypts of Victoria and Tasmania" states that Eucalypt is the common name given to the approximately 800 species of *Eucalyptus* (gums, mallees, stringybarks, ironbarks, boxes etc), 100 species of *Corymbia* (bloodwoods, spotted gums and ghost gums) and 12 species of *Angophora* (apples) found in Australia. Of the 141 species of Eucalypts occurring naturally in Victoria 138 are *Eucalyptus*, two are *Corymbias* and one is an *Angophora* (*Angophora florabunda*).

ANGOPHORA - buds don't have caps and their leaves are opposite.

STRINGYBARKS

Messmate, *Eucalyptus obliqua* was the first *Eucalyptus* species to be named (1777) and it is the type species for the genus *Eucalyptus*.

'*Eucalyptus* means well covered' (refers to flower caps) and '*obliqua*' refers to the uneven join of leaf margins to the leaf stalk. Their bark stays on the tree and they commonly grow with a variety of other trees ie. they "mess with lots of mates".

Red Stringybark, *E. macrorhyncha* (*large snout or beak of bud cap*) bark tends to spiral

Brown Stringybark, *E. baxteri* (*after William Baxter, botanical collector*) glossy green leaves, buds oval domed and warty. In the Grampians - the higher you go the wartier they get.

GUMS

Manna Gum, *E. viminalis* - buds and fruit in 3's, sometimes with rough bark on lower half of trunk.

Candlebark/ White Gum, *E. rubida* (referring to the seasonally reddish bark, that reveals beautiful white trunks)

Swamp Gum, *E. ovata* (ovate leaves) grow along creeks where too cold for River Reds

River Red Gum, *E camaldulensis* - formerly known as *E rostrata* (beaked fruit) but it had earlier been named after the Italian garden of Camalduli and the earliest name has priority. The word ending "ensis" means grows in that place.
Blakely's Red Gum, *E blakelyi* (after botanist William F Blakely) - conical rather than beaked caps.

Yellow Gum, *E Leucoxylon subsp. pruinosa* (referring to the waxy juvenile leaves, buds and branches)

Snow Gums, *E pauciflora subsp. pauciflora* (few flowers) - discovered growing along Pollards Road Elphinstone, growing with Candlebarks

Narrow-leaf Peppermint, *Eucalyptus radiata subsp. radiata* (referring to the radiating clusters of buds)

BOX

Grey Box, *E microcarpa* (small fruit) - branches off at acute angles

White Box, *E albens* (mealy white branchlets and buds) - large juvenile leaves

Red box *E. polyanthemos* (many flowered)

Long-leaf Box, *E goniocalyx* (slightly angled sides to fruit and buds), spreading habit, glossy green leaves. Bark brown or grey, rough and scaly on trunk, finer on branches and absent only from branchlets.

Mealy Bundy, *E nortonii* (named after beekeeper Alfred Norton) - dull blue-green leaves, waxy branchlets buds and fruit.

Yellow Box, *E melliodora* (honey smelling) - rough at base, small leaves, groups of seven buds.

IRONBARKS

Red Ironbark, *E tricarpa* (groups of three fruit)

Mugga Ironbark, *E sideroxylon* (Greek 'sideros' iron, 'xylon' wood) - groups of seven fruit

PEPPERMINTS

- juvenile leaves opposite in pairs and stalkless – in wet areas

Narrowleaf Peppermint, *E radiata* (radiating arrangement of buds) - adult and juvenile leaves strongly peppermint-scented when crushed and after rain

Broadleaf Peppermint, *E dives* (rich and plentiful possibly referring to essential oils in adult leaves) - broader juvenile and adult leaves than *E radiata*

MALLEES

Green Mallee, *E Viridis* (green leaves)

Blue Mallee, *E polybractea* - duller blue-green adult leaves and usually waxy branchlets and buds

Bull Mallee, *E behriana* (named after Hermann Behr, botanical collector, SA) - rough lower bark, smooth glossy coloured upper bark.

Yorell, *E gracilis* (slender, graceful habitat)

Mt Buffalo Sallee, *E mitchelliana* (named after Major Mitchell)

(Ref: Notes taken at Ern Perkins talk at the September meeting; *Eucalypts of Victoria and Tasmania* by Dean Nicolle)

Observations

- ◆ Four Swift Parrots stayed around home for three or four days. Buff banded Rail at the Golf course (photo below) – Debbie Worland
- ◆ Natalie de Maccus has discovered two rare plants on her block in north Castlemaine - Clover leaf Glycine and Blue Grass-lily.
- ◆ George Broadway heard calls of a Mopoke and a Rufous Whistler at Greenhill Ave
- ◆ On Sunday 13th September 2009, I saw a single dead road-killed Dusky Moorhen in the middle of a suburban street in Castlemaine - Campbell St, between Hargreaves St and Barker St. The nearest wetland habitat that I know of is at the botanic gardens (Barkers Creek is closer but pretty marginal for moorhens I would have thought). - Chris Timewell
- ◆ Denis Hurley reports that Pardalotes have returned and are using the nest box; Speckled Warblers seen – probably nesting in the grass; disturbed a Brown? Quail on 24th and heard a Horsefield's Bronze Cuckoo calling near the house.
- ◆ Pardalotes around – first since January; Pallid Cuckoos calling at Lockwood; Blunt Greenhoods still thriving amongst “Miners Lettuce” - Rita Mills
- ◆ Chris Morris reports that the Avian Destructors have moved on, but have been replaced by an invasion of New Holland Honeyeaters



Buff banded Rail

photo – Debbie Worland

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the club

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Programme

October 2009

Wednesday Wildflower Walk #4 (4pm for ~ 1 hour)
October 7th – Kalimna Park

Fri Oct 9th meeting: Gary Gibson (seismologist): Earthquakes
Sat Oct 10th field trip: Rare Orchid search

Sat October 24th - KABC Roadside clean-up; contact Geoff Harris

Fri Nov 13th meeting: DR MARY COLE: Mycorrhizae and
Environmental Health

VISITORS ARE WELCOME AT CLUB ACTIVITIES

General meetings - (second Friday of each month, except January) are held in the Uniting Church (UCA) Hall (enter from Lyttleton St.) at 8.00 pm.

Field Trips - (Saturday following the general meeting) leave from the car park opposite Castle Motel, Duke Street at 1.30pm sharp unless stated otherwise. BYO morning and/or afternoon tea. Outdoor excursions are likely to be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. There are NO excursions on total fire ban days.

Business meetings - fourth Thursday of each month, except December, at Natalies; 65 Johnstone Street, at 7.30 pm. All members are invited to attend.

Subscriptions for 2009

Ordinary membership: Single \$27, Family \$35

Pensioner or student: Single \$24, Family \$29

Subscription includes postage of the monthly newsletter, Castlemaine Naturalist

2009 Committee

Natalie de Maccus (President)		5472 4499
Denis Hurley (vice President)		5472 2753
George Broadway (Secretary)	georgebroadway@bigpond.com	5472 2513
Nigel Harland (Treasurer)	5474 8246	Rita Mills 5472 4553
Chris Morris	0418 996 289	Richard Piesse 0448 572 867
Alison Rowe	0408 899 283	Debbie Worland 5472 2474
Noel Young (Newsletter Editor)		5472 1345

[email newsletter material to: noelyoung@aapt.net.au]

Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club Inc. PO Box 324, Castlemaine, 3450.
Inc #A0003010B